CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus, comprising:

a data path input unit to receive a packet from a transmitting device for a request transaction that does not expect a completion; and

a data path output unit to transmit a message to the transmitting device if the request transaction is unsuccessful.

- 2. The apparatus of claim 1, the packet including a packet header that includes a requester identification field that identifies the transmitting device.
- 3. The apparatus of claim 2, the contents of the requester identification field used to route the message back to the transmitting device.
- 4. The apparatus of claim 3, the message including an unsuccessful request error message.
- 5. The apparatus of claim 3, the message including an undefined packet error message.
- 6. The apparatus of claim 3, the message including a malformed packet error message.

7. A system, comprising:

a transmitting device to transmit a packet for a request transaction that does not expect a completion; and

a receiving device to receive the packet and to return a message to the transmitting device if the request transaction is unsuccessful.

- 8. The system of claim 7, the packet including a packet header that includes a requester identification field that identifies the transmitting device.
- 9. The system of claim 8, the contents of the requester identification field used to route the message back to the transmitting device.
- 10. The system of claim 9, the message including an unsuccessful request error message.
- 11. The system of claim 9, the message including an undefined packet error message.
- 12. The system of claim 9, the message including a malformed packet error message.
 - 13. A method, comprising:

receiving a request packet from a transmitting device; determining whether an error condition exists; and

if an error condition exists and the request packet indicates that a completion is not expected, delivering an error message to the transmitting device.

- 14. The method of claim 13, further comprising delivering a completion packet with a non-successful completion status to the transmitting device if an error condition exists and the request packet indicates that a completion is expected.
- 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the error message indicates an undefined packet.
- 16. The method of claim 14, wherein the error message indicates a malformed packet.
- 17. The method of claim 14, wherein the error message indicates an unsupported request.